

# **Statement of Governor Haley Barbour On Budget Agreement**

**May 25, 2005**

“It appears that the House and Senate tonight have agreed in principle on a budget for Mississippi. What they have agreed upon will be the best budget Mississippi has had in several years and will go a long way toward finally digging our state out of its budget hole.

While it was disappointing that a budget was not finalized during the Regular Session, legislators have answered my call and moved swiftly on the budget and other key issues during this Special Session.

Unlike most of the rest of state government, K-12 education will see a large funding increase over last year in this budget. Our public schools will receive \$131 million more in FY06 than they did in FY05. Among other things, this will keep Mississippi teachers in the classroom and assure they get the pay raise they were promised.

While the House was gracious in heeding the Senate’s call to make cuts in higher education less severe, Mississippi universities will still be seeing a reduction in their general support funding while, at the same time,

seeing an increase in the number of students they serve. I hope when our budget is back in structural balance, we will make higher education the funding priority it ought to be.

As we wait for this agreement to be put to paper and on to a vote, I hope that the last remaining issue of this Special Session - Momentum Mississippi - will be approved quickly so we can continue our work to create more and better jobs for all Mississippians.”

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